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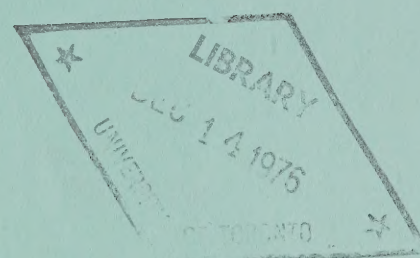
Government  
Publications

ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

OPEN MEETING WITH LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY

MAY 3, 1975

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ONTARIO COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

MINUTES

5-0097

MEETING

OPEN MEETING WITH LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY

LOCATION

Laurentian University

DATE AND TIME

May 3, 1975

1:45 p.m.

5-0098

ATTENDANCE

OCUA MEMBERS

J. S. Dupré

W. E. Bagnall

W. A. Goyan

M. A. Bush

T. R. Léger

A. D'Iorio

A. L. McCallion

P. D. Fleck

M. F. Orange

R. Gerstein

H. H. Walker

L. Good

OCUA STAFF

J. P. Venton  
Executive Secretary

N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

LAURENTIAN DELEGATION

E. J. Monahan  
President

L. Larouche  
Vice-President (Academic)

F. Turner  
Vice-President (Administration)

C. Nurmi  
Comptroller

G. Lafrenière  
Director of Continuing Education

A. Mrozewski  
Chief Librarian

E. Wright  
Director of Graduate Studies

J. Barry  
Dean, Humanities

R. Liljelund  
Dean, Professional Schools

D. Williamson  
Dean, Science

W. Schwager  
Dean, Social Science

D. Pearson  
COU academic colleague





R. Kari  
Chairman, Budget Committee

G. Browning  
Board member

F. Clumpus  
Board member

M. Weaver  
Board member

J. Desmarais  
Board Chairman

P. Bruce-Lockhart  
Board Vice-Chairman

R. Dow  
Board member

T. Hennessy  
V. P. Administration designate





INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The President opened the meeting by reviewing supplementary material which had been distributed concerning:

- (i) the 1975-76 Laurentian budget updated to April 22, 1975
- (ii) enrolment data
- (iii) a summary of required maintenance projects

Dr. Monahan reported an anticipated accumulated deficit at the end of 1975-76 in excess of \$.67 million and a modest increase in enrolment for September 1975 of approximately 8% or slightly more. With regard to (iii) above, the Ministry had requested a list of potential summer works projects should funds become available and the President noted that most projects recorded in the documentation fell into such a category.

FORMULA REVISION

The School of Nursing at Laurentian generally supported the argument made by other universities for revision of the nursing student weight. As well it was pointed out that Laurentian was in the process of developing a part-time nursing programme which eventually would be offered on a regional basis. The additional costs of this part-time programme would likely be assignable to Laurentian's Northern Ontario grant. The School of Nursing had under consideration the applicability of Ministry of Health support for its clinical services.

The major distinction between general and honours programmes at Laurentian consisted of the degree of discipline coverage undertaken by a student. It was noted, however, that most honours courses were open to general programme students. Because of the large number of part-time honours students, many honours courses were offered every year, usually in the evenings, to both full-time and part-time students. Adoption of an average weight





of 1.24 for all Arts and Science undergraduates it was felt would generate inadequate funding. An average of 1.3 was considered preferable. The delegation agreed to forward the actual average undergraduate Arts and Science weight at Laurentian following the hearing. It was noted that fixed costs in Science programmes at a university of Laurentian's size demonstrated the inadequacy of the 2.0 undergraduate science weight. Almost half of the Science inventory at Laurentian was purchased through research grant funds.

Although local interest had been demonstrated, the University had been unable to offer Fine Arts and Drama programmes due to lack of funds. However, local colleges of applied arts and technology had adequate facilities for, and offered, Fine Arts, Drama and Music programmes.

Various methods which could be employed to fill unused capacity were discussed.

The delegation felt that in the minds of the students Ontario universities were already divided into two categories of quality. However, it was pointed out that using financial inducement to attract disadvantaged students would not necessarily further this situation because financial need did not relate to student aptitude.

The delegation felt that system resource utilization would be improved if full scholarships could be offered to science students to attend Laurentian and fill its capacity, rather than funding science programme and facility expansion elsewhere. It was stressed that under-utilization would have to be determined on a programme by programme basis and that many small southern universities also experienced under-filled programme capacity. Although using financial incentives to attract students was seen by the delegation in a positive light, they noted the danger of reduced tuition fees which would be unreflective of





programme costs. A preferable solution would be a direct student subsidy, perhaps through OSAP, although it was noted that this approach would not be beneficial to part-time local students.

5-0101

TUITION FEES

The delegation agreed that fee differentials among universities and within a university among programmes could only come about through maintenance of Board autonomy to set fee levels. It was noted however that if differentials existed in a setting where formula rather than actual fees were used for formula income deductions, those universities which enjoyed student demand would be able to set even higher fees. Hence, the popular schools would receive more income per student.

5-0102

ACCESSIBILITY

Laurentian was generally concerned about the wide range of entrant capacity to do university work. It was stressed that if a university determined to admit educationally disadvantaged students, it must take responsibility for developing special programmes which would allow such students to be successful in the regular university stream. At Laurentian remedial instruction in first language usage had reached a point where further expansion would require reduction of other programme offerings. Currently approximately \$110,000 and six full-time faculty were used to offer credit courses in this type of remedial instruction. The delegation also noted a large uncostered involvement in remedial work achieved through small class sizes and revised programme content. Indirect effects of remedial instruction included limiting the range of other course offerings, requiring university faculty to teach high school calibre courses, and reducing the university level content of a student's educational programme.

It was noted that Laurentian accepted a maximum of 15





students per year directly from grade 12 on the recommendation of their guidance counsellors provided they had achieved an average grade above 80%.

5-0103

STUDENT SUPPORT

Laurentian reported that it had filled its 10 institutional Ontario Graduate Scholarships and that 3 students had received OGS's in the open competition. As well the University currently had 4 NRC Fellows.

With regard to OSAP it was noted that the prospect of undertaking a loan had negative implications for a student from a low, as opposed to a middle income, background. In this sense, it was felt that the OSAP loan scheme was inequitably geared to a particular socio-economic sector.

5-0104

GRADUATE STUDIES

The delegation expressed its disenchantment with the complicated time consuming, and costly nature of ACAP assessments.

Laurentian felt that the five year plans required of smaller universities presented roadblocks to the natural development of core disciplines, and reduced graduate programme development flexibility. It was strongly urged that the use of the five year plan be restricted to the creation of a loose pattern for graduate development. At the time Laurentian's first five year plan was developed certain disciplines were in a state of readiness to progress to graduate work but subsequently many had suffered internal changes or lack of student demand and hence could not be implemented as planned.

In summary the delegation supported generally the appraisal process but not the mechanics of ACAP assessments.





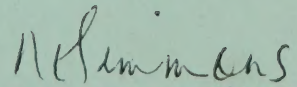
5-0105 SYSTEM-WIDE COORDINATION

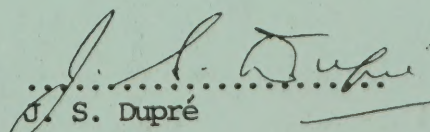
Library coordination costs at Laurentian were considered more than the University could afford primarily in terms of human resources. The University participated in 5 of the current 11 cooperative projects. It was noted that meetings of all cooperative programmes were held in the Toronto area and Laurentian had only one librarian who, in addition to regular duties, was required to attend such meetings.

In the computer area it was noted that communications costs were high. Laurentian had its own computer and a link-up with the University of Ottawa. Laurentian was not currently involved in shared computer usage with other local institutions such as colleges of applied arts and technology and secondary schools. Reports of both internal and external consultants had indicated that at present it would be most profitable for Laurentian to retain its own computer. However, this would require re-examination at the time the University out-grew the capacity of its current installation.

5-0106 MACRO-INDICATORS

Laurentian's brief had indicated that "the appropriate agency to undertake the development of .... macro-indicators would be OCUA". In support of this position the delegation noted that the recent history of COU and MCU inability to reach agreement strongly indicated the need for a referee such as OCUA primarily to undertake the definition of macro-indicators. However, it was not felt that OCUA's role need necessarily extend to collection and maintenance of data.

  
.....  
N. E. Simmons  
Associate Secretary

  
.....  
J. S. Dupré  
Chairman



